

service department at Woodville ISD. Tommy was truly blessed to have one of the best cooks in Southeast Texas as his mother, and his meals were southern-style home-cooking for the whole family. Tommy loved the holidays, as it was a time when his family came together to enjoy his mother's meals and each other's company at the old home place.

While attending Kirby High School, Tommy was actively involved in sports. As a teenager, he developed a love of hunting. Tommy felt blessed to have been raised in East Texas, surrounded by nature and wildlife. On any given day, you could find him fishing in "Dam B", swimming in Wolf Creek lake, or chasing squirrels. Being the baby of the family, there was a never a dull moment and always plenty to do.

In 1973, Tommy graduated from Lamar University with a bachelor's in accounting. Shortly after, Tommy married the love of his life, Kathy Harriett Tolar. They started their lives together in Beaumont, TX, where he worked with Edgar and Kiker, CPAs. After a few years, Tommy and Kathy returned home to Woodville, where Tommy established his accounting firm, Weaver and Smith, CPAs. In 1987, he began working at Woodville ISD as the Assistant Superintendent of Finance, where he would spend the next 23 years before his retirement.

After he was retired, Tommy continued to do what he liked best: hunting, golfing, and watching his grandchildren play. He also enjoyed utilizing his financial expertise volunteering with numerous organizations such as First Baptist Church, Jacob's Ladder Learning Center, the Lions Club, and Allan Shivers Library. Additionally, Tommy served on the board of Tyler County Hospital and ultimately became Chairman.

Tommy made life-long friends over his 43 years of membership in the Woodville Lions Club, including honors such as: the Outstanding Lion of the Year, Long Time Service, Lifetime Membership in Texas Lions Camp, and the prestigious Melvin Jones Fellowship Award. Tommy recently received a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding commitment and dedication to service, which was presented to his sons on his behalf.

Early in life, Tommy's mother instilled in him the love of his Lord and Savior, and as a young boy he attended Ebenezer Baptist Church. Tommy later led his family to become members of the First Baptist Church of Woodville, where he served as trustee and a deacon. Tommy thoroughly enjoyed his men's Sunday school class and occasionally filled in as the teacher, using his passion and thoughtfulness to deliver the weekly lesson.

Tommy's primary devotion throughout life was the growth and support of his family. He spent many years coaching his three boys in various sports. While not on the sports field, they could usually be found out enjoying nature with their father. Nothing brought Tommy more pleasure than taking his boys hunting and "bringing home the meat." The time spent together in sports and outdoors is where Tommy instilled in his boys the same values and faith that guided him throughout his life. Tommy and Kathy were both blessed to have the privilege of watching their three boys grow to be leaders within their communities.

Tommy and Kathy both enjoyed traveling. One of their most memorable trips was to Athens, Greece, where they visited the

Areopagus (Mars Hill) where Paul the Apostle gave his most famous message. Tommy especially enjoyed reading the books of the Bible written by Paul.

Tommy's greatest love was his family and seven grandchildren, who lovingly called him "Pops." The beloved family dog, Toto, always knew when Pops was home and frequently landed in his lap for a cuddle. Tommy is remembered by his family as "an oak tree . . . strong, mighty, and courageous."

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charlie "CC" and Winnie Bell Weaver, and his sister Virginia Carruth. He is survived by his devoted wife of 46 years, Kathy Tolar Weaver of Doucette; sons, Travis and wife Jamie of Doucette, Ryan and wife Amanda of Lumberton, Lane and wife Amber of Kingwood; grandchildren, Reed, Lural, Tyler, Karson, Lathan, Lucas, and Blake; brothers, Charley and wife Diana of San Antonio, Kenneth and wife Charlotte of Woodville; sister, Barbara Wilson of Woodville, as well as numerous nephews and nieces.

Madam Speaker, I would like to honor my friend Tommy Weaver for his many years of faithful service to his community. My thoughts and prayers remain with his family and friends during this difficult time.

CONGRESSMAN MRVAN CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month. From September 15, 2021 to October 15, 2021, the people of the United States will once again celebrate the histories, cultures, traditions, and contributions of our Hispanic American community. As a lifelong resident of Northwest Indiana, in honor of this special month, I would like to pay tribute to two truly outstanding local Hispanic community leaders, the late Jesse Gomez and Rosemarie Gomez.

Jesse Gomez was born on April 5, 1920 in East Chicago, Indiana. He was elected East Chicago City Councilman in 1963, making him the first person of Hispanic descent to be elected to political office in the city, as well as in the state of Indiana. Mr. Gomez served three consecutive terms as councilman and was elected Council President twice during his tenure. His election and time in office was especially significant in that it opened political doors for the Hispanic community throughout the city of East Chicago and beyond. During his career, Jesse was also appointed Manager of the East Chicago License Bureau and served as Deputy Clerk in the Lake County Treasurer's office and Assistant Deputy for the Lake County Assessor's office. Jesse Gomez passed away on August 31, 1979, leaving an indelible mark in Northwest Indiana's history. He is survived by his wife, Rosemarie, four beloved children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Throughout his life, Mr. Gomez successfully advocated for the interests and rights of the Hispanic community throughout the region and the state. We are truly grateful for Jesse's remarkable contribu-

tions, and his legacy will remain a cornerstone for the Hispanic community and for all of Northwest Indiana.

Rosemarie Gomez was born on January 14, 1926 in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico. As a child, her family traveled back and forth between Mexico and the United States. She and Jesse made their home in East Chicago, and after Jesse's passing, Rosemarie was selected to replace him on the East Chicago City Council. This made her the first Hispanic female to serve in any political office in East Chicago. Throughout the years, Mrs. Gomez has given of her time and efforts to the city of East Chicago and to the Hispanic community. The pursuit of quality education has always been of utmost importance to Rosemarie, and she has always made it a point to instill these values in her children and grandchildren. Throughout the years, she has dedicated much of her time to the East Chicago Public Library. Among her many projects with the library, for twenty years Mrs. Gomez volunteered to decorate a Mexican-themed Christmas tree for the library's "Christmas Around the World" exhibit. For her dedication and commitment to the Hispanic community, and to the city of East Chicago and beyond, Rosemarie is worthy of our highest praise and everlasting gratitude.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Our nation's success is reliant upon the rich heritage and cultural diversity of its people, and the extraordinary contributions of citizens such as Jesse and Rosemarie Gomez, who have improved the quality of life for generations to come. This month, and always, we honor the many Hispanic members of our communities who have added to the prosperity of the United States and who have enriched our lives and the culture of our great nation.

HONORING PALM SPRINGS POLICE CHIEF BRIAN REYES

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 2021

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the career of Palm Springs Police Chief Bryan Reyes who has retired after nearly 30 years of service to our community.

A veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Chief Reyes began his career in law enforcement as a reserve police officer for the Compton Police Department in 1991. After transferring to the Palm Springs Police Department in 1993, he rose through the ranks—serving as an officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain before ultimately police chief.

Chief Reyes led the Palm Springs Police Department through difficult times. On October 8, 2016, during the first year of his tenure as Chief of Police, Palm Springs police officers Lesley Zerebny and Gilbert Vega were tragically killed in the line of duty. Chief Reyes recognized the devastating impact this would have on the department, community, and the officers' families. He prioritized the mental health needs of those affected and his guidance brought us all closer together in this time of mourning.

I am honored to have collaborated with Chief Reyes in authoring legislation to commemorate the tremendous sacrifice made by